

## Binger, Okla.

Editor News:—

Not having seen anything from this section of the country for some time and thinking perhaps someone might enjoy reading a short letter I thought I would write and tell the readers of your paper something about this wonderful new state of ours. I know it is true they have heard a great deal but the half has not yet been told and will not be for decades to come, for the country is only in its infancy as well as its many thriving industries which are springing up all over the state and particularly in the larger towns and cities of which I might mention, Oklahoma City as the leader which has a population of 65000 people and is only in its beginning of a great city and promises to be within the next few years the commercial center, not only of Oklahoma but of the entire Southwest as well. Oklahoma has the greatest variety of occupations of any State most in the union, therefore her doors are thrown open to people of all trades and occupations which is causing a great tide of immigration to come to this new State. And consequently its possibilities are being developed more rapidly than that of any other state, and in particular along the lines of agriculture, for it possesses soil that will grow any crop aided by wonderful climatic conditions.

Oklahoma bids fair to outstrip both her sister agricultural and mineral states within the very near future. When one stops to think that during the current year of 1910, the value of Oklahoma's crops was almost a quarter of a billion dollars, that a small percentage of her entire tillable land is under cultivation, and that the per capita value of this year's crops was \$100. We wonder with astonishment what the result will be when advantage is taken of all the magnificent opportunities offered by the new state and which may be had for the asking. Oklahoma contains in round numbers forty-six million acres of land. Of this total area less than one-third is under cultivation.

In the year 1908, 10,182,614 acres were being cultivated; in 1909 the cultivated acreage was increased to 10,897,943 acres, or an increase of seven per cent, and it may be readily seen that at this rate the entire available area will soon be under cultivation. When we take into consideration that the rental value to the land owner this year is over ten per cent on his investment, or a greater rate than any other state which is evidence of the splendid value of Oklahoma lands, and one very noticeable feature of this country is its great ability to endure dry weather and produce a fair crop. It sometimes happens that a crop is grown here on bottom lands without any rains practically from the time it is planted until it is harvested, receiving all of its moisture from sub-irrigation, and no doubt but this may sound a bit queer to the eastern farmer where he must have a rain every little while, that he may grow any crop at all. And now while Kentucky is covered in a mantle of snow or mud we are having beautiful sunny days and mud is unknown almost in this section of Oklahoma.

And up to this time we have seen no snow, while we have had some cool weather we have only had a few heavy frosts.

We have lots of Kentuckians in this section of Oklahoma and only wish we had many more, for a better people you can not find any where. Since I have been here I have visited a number of their homes and invariably find them all prospering and surrounded by everything that is needed to make them comfortable and in nearly every instance they own the farms on which they live. The greatest drawback and about the only is the Indian or the redman, as he is sometimes called, but they are being crowded out very fast. To-day there are millions of acres of Indian lands being sold under the Supervision of the Government and in many instances the allotted lands of 160 acres are being divided and one-half, sold and the proceeds derived therefrom expended under the supervision of the national Government for the improving of the remaining 80 acres which will put many good buildings and homes in the country, which would be an impossibility so long as the land are under the control of the Indians. All this means a new era of rapid growth for this already wonderfully rapid growing state which makes it the wonder of the age in building of new states.

Thinking perhaps I have taken enough of your space, I will close with best wishes for a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year for all of my Kentucky friends.

Respt, Robt. E. Lloyd.

## Rat-Killing in Bombay.

The bubonic plague has killed 169,000 people in the last fourteen years in the city of Bombay alone, the highest mortality being 20,000 in 1903 and the lowest 5,000 during the past year. The reduction of the mortality can be traced very largely to the number of rats killed in the city, who are the industrious carriers of the disease. A half million rats were killed last year in that city alone, of which number 90,000 were examined by the bacteriologists of the health department and 9,000 of them were found to be infected with the plague. The wholesale destruction of these rodents was accomplished by the most careful municipal plan and co-operation of health and police departments, which scattered bread smeared with poison and furnished thousands of disinfected traps to the inhabitants, who caught tens of thousands of them. The plague could not be driven out of San Francisco and some other Western cities until they had learned what a subtle and deadly carrier of disease the rat is, and until the public had been aroused to the necessity and task of his destruction. This method of preventing physical disease suggests the spiritual health which comes to those who are obedient to God's commandments:

Don't expect to satisfy your heart with gold even though it can be had by setting your heart on it.

Don't overlook the fact that much more is lost through daily indifference than death can take from us at the end.

Don't forget that virtue is the joy of the upward way.

## Prison Doors Close on August Ropke.

In a light, airy and fairly commodious cell, with Curt Jett on one side of him and Beach Hargis a close neighbor, August Ropke, once wealthy and trusted, holding a responsible position with a big trust company in Louisville, now has begun services of the long sentence imposed upon him by the Jefferson Circuit court. Ropke has been given one of the best cells in the prison, on the ground floor. It was occupied until recently by Judge C. E. Booe, former claim clerk of the Auditor's office. Booe has moved but is still on the same tier of cells with Ropke. Henry Youtsey, Jett and Hargis all have cells along that tier and Ropke is in the company of the most noted men in the prison. The cell is in the new house and opens on a wide walk, with plenty of windows, to admit light and air, opening on it.

After his admission to the prison Ropke was measured for a suit of blue clothes, such as all the second grade convicts wear and was given a gray cap. If he is good for sixty days he will be given a blue cap, which will make him in the first grade and he will have some privileges not accorded to the other convicts. Only the worst convicts in the prison wear stripes. All who are admitted start in the gray and their conduct later determines any changes that are made. Ropke was measured under the Bertillon system and his picture taken. In fact he was treated just as any other convict who comes to the penitentiary.

August Ropke arrived in Frankfort on the C. & O. train at 11:55 Monday morning in charge of Deputy Sheriff Robert Kaltenbacher. He was dressed nicely but modestly, wearing a well fitting dark overcoat which he was required to take off in the office of the penitentiary before he went inside the walls.

He walked to the prison with Kaltenbacher from the train in an easy unconcerned way, but he was evidently laboring under the effort to appear calm. On the way from the station to the penitentiary office he conversed in a low tone with Kaltenbacher and took something out of his pocket, supposed to be a knife, keys and possibly some other trinket, which he gave to the deputy sheriff.

When they went into the prison office, Deputy Warden Thomas took the commitment papers and Clerk Addams wrote out the necessary statement on a typewriter, just as is done with any other prisoner. When asked to state his age, Ropke said he was forty-one, and in answer to the question as whether he had any money, he said he had not. He went through his pockets and pulled out a spectacle case which he held up. He was told he would be allowed to keep it. Deputy Thomas then quoted to him the law as to punishment for attempting to escape and also mentioned the indeterminate sentence law, which would entitle him to parol if he obeyed the rules of the prison. He had a suit case with him, which was left on the outside when he was taken inside the walls, but he was told he would be allowed to take the things out of the case later and keep them, provided

they were not prohibited by the rules. He had a night shirt and some other articles of wearing apparel in the case. When he went inside he was given the same treatment that all other prisoners receive. He was shaved, had his hair cut, given a bath, measured naked by the Bertillon system and photographed. Then a suit of clothes, plain gray with a gray cap, was fitted on him, and he was assigned to cell No 7 on walk B., which is the same cell that was given Judge Booe when he first went to prison and is on the same floor with Curt Jett, Beach Hargis and other celebrities of the prison.—Frankfort News.

## Fad Warnings.

Drink water and get typhoid fever. Drink milk and get tuberculosis. Drink whisky and get jimjams. Drink soup and fat. Eat meat and encourage cancer, apoplexy, and appendicitis. Eat oysters and absorb typhoid gastric poison germs. Eat vegetables and give the system Asiatic thin-blooded weakness. Eat dessert and die with paresis or something else. Smoke cigarettes and die too soon. Drink coffee and fall into insomnia and nervous prostration. Drink tea and get weak heart. Drink wine and so drink gout. Blame it all, if you want to keep well quit eating and drinking, smoking, and loving, and before breathing or touching anything see that the air and everything is perfectly sterilized.—The New York Press.

There is, however, no little consolation in reflecting that nature provides us with a more or less effective armor against germs so that we may carry many thousands of them about with us and not contract the various diseases they represent. We can also—most of us—stop smoking when it hurts our health, and some of us can smoke and live to be 100 or so. And those of us who get paresis nearly always imagine we are Sultans, Kings or millionaires, for that feeling is a symptom of the disease.

Boil your drinking water if the supply is bad, and raise the deuce with your town if it is its fault that it is bad. Eat and drink other things in moderation, and let the germophobes and health cranks follow their own advice, because it is worse to be hipped about your health than to be really sick. You may get over being sick, or you may die, but if you get hipped you are likely to go through life that way, and live a long time in misery.—Frankfort News.

## Why Kick Your Congressman?

A young millionaire officer in the New York National Guard, home from abroad and bringing back a fear of Japanese invasion of the United States, advocated in an interview a system of compulsory military service of three years for every able-bodied American citizen. To bring this about he advised every one to "kick his Congressman." That, he said, was the only way to get anything out of him. The young man is the son and heir of the late H. H. Rogers, of the Standard Oil Company. If young Mr. Rogers will consult the partner of his father, Mr. Archibald, he will learn of a more peaceful and effective method of handling Congressmen and Senators.—Chicago Tribune.

## Most Beautiful Will Ever Written.

Chicago, Ills.—When Charles Lounsbury, an inmate of the Cook county asylum at Dunning, Ill., died, he left a will.

Lounsbury had nothing to bequeath "which is known to law," as he says, but he distributes a vast and wonderful property in this beautiful testament:

"I, Charles Lounsbury, being of sound mind and disposing memory, do hereby make and publish this, my last will and testament, in order as justly as may be to distribute my interest in the world among succeeding men.

"That part of my interest which is known in law and recognized in the sheep-bound volumes as my property, being inconsiderable and of no account I make no disposal of it in this, my will.

"My right to live being but a life estate, is not at my disposal, but, these things excepted, all else in the world I now proceed to devise and bequeath:

Item: I give to good fathers and mothers, in trust for their children, all good little words of praise and encouragement, and all quaint pet names and endearments, and I charge said parents to use them justly and generously, as the needs of their children may require.

Item: I leave to children inclusively, but only for the term of their childhood, all and every, the flowers of the fields and the blossoms of the woods, with the right to play among them freely according to the customs of children, warning them the same time against thistles and thorns. And I devise to children the banks of brooks and the golden sands beneath the waters thereof, and the odors of the willows that dip therein, and the white clouds that float high over the giant trees. And I leave the children the long, long days to be merry in, a thousand ways, and the night and the moon and the train of the Milky Way to wonder at, but subject, nevertheless to the rights hereinafter given to lovers.

"Item: I devise to boys jointly all the useful idle fields and common where ball may be played; all pleasant waters where one may swim; all snow clad hills where one may coast, and all the streams and ponds where one may fish, or where, when grim winter comes one may skate; to have and to hold the same for the period of their boyhood. And all meadows with the clover blossoms and butterflies thereof, the woods and their appurtenances, the squirrels and birds, and echoes of strange noises, and all distant places which may be visited, together with the adventures to be found there. And I give to said boys each his own place at the fireside at night, with all pictures that may be seen in the burning wood to enjoy let or hinderance and without any incumbrance or care.

Item: To lovers I devise their imaginary world, with whatever they may need, as the stars of the sky, the red roses by the wall, the bloom of the hawthorn, the sweet strains of music, and aught else by which they may desire to figure to each other the lastingness and beauty of their love.

"Item: To young men jointly I devise and bequeath all boisterous, inspiring sports of rivalry,

and give to them the disdain of weakness and undaunted confidence in their own strength, though they are rude; I give them power to make lasting friendships, and to them exclusively I give all merry songs and brave choruses, to sing with lusty voices "Item: To our loved ones with snowy crowns I bequeath the happiness of old age the love and gratitude of their children until they fall asleep."

## PIANO CONTEST MOVING

WITH A RUSH.

## About Sixty Young Ladies Out After the Five Piano Prizes

The Adair County News and Russell & Co., joint prize offer of \$1400 00—Five Standard 1910 Krause Pianos, for the five most popular young ladies in Adair and adjoining counties is now in full swing and votes are coming in at a rate that speaks well for the value of the prizes offered.

Right now is the time to name your candidates for popularity honors, and incidentally put her in line for a standard 1910 Krause Piano. Absolutely no cost to either yourself or the young lady you nominate. Coupon "B" appears elsewhere in this issue will put the lady of your choice in line with 1000 votes to her credit. Suppose you do it now!

There are 200 young ladies in Adair and adjoining counties possessing exceptional musical talent and must remain undeveloped because they lack a good piano. Don't this give you an idea? You can put some friend of yours in line by writing her name on Coupon "B" and mailing it to this office, and you can keep her in line by clipping the coupons that will appear in every issue of the The News. Watch for them and get your friends to do likewise.

Every candidate entered has five chances of winning a piano prize. Each prize offered represents an elegant 1910 Krause Instrument.

Ballot box now open and prize on view at Russell & Co's. store. Your inspection and criticism invited. Votes will be counted every Monday night by the following committee:

J. W. Flowers, cashier Bank of Columbia; Robt. Reed, of Reed Hardware Co., Bruce Montgomery, Asst. cashier 1st National Bank.

Candidate's names and their standing will appear every Tuesday in this publication.

Russell & Co., are offering bonus votes to candidates bringing business to their store. 200 votes will be given for each dollar purchase made from this general stock and 1000 votes for each dollar purchase from their newly established jewelry department. Candidates will learn something to their advantage by calling at the store and conferring personally with the Contest manager. He has three plans of systematic vote collecting which will be of great advantage to the young lady candidates who mean business.

Watch for the list of candidates to appear in next Tuesday's issue of the News. If the young lady of your choice is not entered, see to it that she is nominated. Better be sure and use Coupon "B" today—Now!

## Mixing His Dates.

There is a story of a man who was so transported with joy as he stood up at the altar rail to be married, that his thoughts reverted to a day when he stood up at the prisoner's bar in a court of justice to plead "guilty" or "not guilty" to a criminal charge. So powerfully did that, the most painful event of his life, obtrude itself upon his mind, that when the clergyman put the question, "Wilt thou have this woman to be thy wedded wife?" and so on, the poor distracted bridegroom answered with startling distinctness, "Not guilty, so help me God!"—From Tuckerman's "Personal Recollections"

The sub-committee of the Senate committee on privileges and elections completed its investigation of the scandal arising from the recent election of William Lorimer as United States Senator from Illinois. A report is expected within two weeks.